

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BONN 18675 031703Z

43

ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDE-00 AEC-05 CIAE-00 H-01

INR-05 IO-10 L-02 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-03

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USNMR SHAPE

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG

USDEL MBFR VIENNA PRIORITY

S E C R E T BONN 18675

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO, GW

SUBJECT: MBFR: FRG REACTION TO THE EASTERN FREEZE
PROPOSAL

REFS: (A) MBFR VIENNA 462, (B) BONN 18622

1. RECENT DISCUSSIONS IN THE FONOFF ABOUT THE EASTERN FREEZE PROPOSAL LEAD US TO CONCLUDE THAT THE GERMAN INTEREST IN HELPING TO DEVELOP A POSITIVE NATO RESPONSE - AS OPPOSED TO AN OUTRIGHT REJECTION - IS FAIRLY STRONG. THIS PRELIMINARY GERMAN POSITION SEEMS TO BE SHARED OR AT LEAST TACITLY BLESSED WITHIN THE FONOFF UP TO THE POLITICAL DIRECTOR LEVEL. AT THE WORKING LEVEL, THE GERMANS BELIEVE IT IS A RELATIVELY MANAGEABLE PROBLEM FOR NATO TO DEVELOP SOME TYPE OF COUNTERPROPOSAL. THE FRG DOES NOT THINK SUCH A RESPONSE NECESSARILY HAS TO BE TOO FORMAL IN CHARACTER

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PAGE 02 BONN 18675 031703Z

AS, FOR EXAMPLE, WAS THE BRITISH PROPOSAL IN BRUSSELS

YESTERDAY. RATHER, THE WESTERN RESPONSE COULD BE LESS STRUCTURED IN FORM AND NON-COMMITTAL WITH REGARD TO DETAILS.

2. NEW DRAFT INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE FRG REP IN BRUSSELS ARE PRESENTLY UNDER CONSIDERATION IN THE FONOFF. AS REPORTED REFTEL B, THE GERMANS WERE STRUCK BY CANADIAN AMBASSADOR MENZIES' COMMENT ABOUT SELECTING THE HIGHER FORCE LEVEL AS THE POINT AT WHICH TO FREEZE FORCES. ACCORDINGLY WE EXPECT THAT THE LANGUAGE TO BE PROPOSED BY THE GERMANS FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE DECEMBER 4 MEETING WILL INCORPORATE THIS IDEA. THE GERMANS EMPHASIZE THAT THE OPPORTUNITY SHOULD NOT BE LOST TO TURN THE EASTERN PROPOSAL TO THE WEST'S OWN BEST ADVANTAGE, AND THEY SEEM FIRM IN THEIR BELIEF THAT A COUNTERPROPOSAL MAKES GOOD SENSE, WOULD NOT BE HARMFUL TO THE WESTERN POSITION, AND COULD BE AGREED TO WITHIN THE ALLIANCE RELATIVELY QUICKLY.
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